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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Angola:* revised draft resolution

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 69/73 of 2 December 2014,

Recalling also the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the Central Africa subregion,

Reaffirming that the purpose of the Standing Advisory Committee is to conduct reconstruction and confidence-building activities in Central Africa among its member States, including through confidence-building and arms limitation measures,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty[1] on 24 December 2014, and taking note of the First Conference of States Parties, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 24 to 27 August 2015, and taking note also of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

[1] See resolution 67/234 B.

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in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 16 to 20 June 2014, and the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 1 to 5 June 2015,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries,

Welcoming the declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa, adopted by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee on 8 December 2011 at their thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui from 5 to 9 December 2011,[2] and the progress made towards its implementation, including most recently through the holding of the workshop on human rights and prevention of violent extremism, in Luanda from 24 to 26 February 2015, the workshop on money-laundering and terrorism financing, in Libreville on 19 and 20 May 2015, the workshop on the judicial challenges arising in the context of counter-terrorism operations, in Libreville from 29 September to 1 October 2015, and the workshop on the validation of a draft regional strategy and plan of action on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa by national focal points, in Libreville on 1 and 2 October 2015,

Noting with appreciation the support of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in making these workshops possible through technical and financial support, and the substantive contribution of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate throughout the project,

Bearing in mind that the implementation of the road map should be compliant with relevant legal and administrative obligations, as set out in Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1624 (2005) of 14 September 2005 and 1963 (2010) of 20 December 2010, as well as the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[3]

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken on the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international peace and security,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[4] the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa[5] and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,[6]

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[2] A/67/72-S/2012/159, annex, attachment I.

[3] Resolution 60/288.

[4] A/50/474, annex I.

[5] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

[6] A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II.

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998, respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[7]

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, the inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014, of the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, and the launch of the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre in Cotonou, Benin, in March 2015,

Recalling its resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015, the first such resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, and welcoming the outcome of the high-level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking, held on the margins of the high-level segments of the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly, hosted by Gabon and Germany,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa, and taking note in this regard of the concrete conflict prevention initiatives facilitated by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the close cooperation established between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as the signing of a framework of cooperation agreement between the two entities on 3 May 2012,

Bearing in mind the increased focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on human security questions, such as trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as an important consideration for subregional peace, stability and conflict prevention,

Welcoming the holding of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation, in Bangui from 4 to 11 May 2015, chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, and calling for the swift implementation of its conclusions as contained in the Republican Pact (Pacte Républicain) between the State and its citizens, and in the agreement on the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and reinsertion of former combatants,

Expressing continued concern about the situation in the Central African Republic and its spillover effect on neighbouring countries, and calling upon all relevant parties to ensure the holding of legislative and presidential elections before the end of 2015, with a view to concluding the political transition and returning to constitutional order,

Expressing concern also about the increasing impact of cross-border criminality, in particular the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, the terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region and incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, on peace, security and development in Central Africa,

Commending the efforts by the Lake Chad Basin member States and Benin for their efforts to fully operationalize the Multinational Joint Task Force to effectively

[7] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

combat the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group to the Lake Chad Basin region, and taking note of the establishment of the operational headquarters of the Joint Task Force in N'Djaména,

Considering the urgent need to prevent the possible movement of illicit weapons, mercenaries and combatants involved in conflicts in the Sahel and in neighbouring countries in the Central African subregion,

1. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of disarmament and arms control programmes in Central Africa carried out by the States of the subregion with the support of the United Nations, the African Union and other international partners;

3. *Encourages* Member States to provide assistance to those States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa that have ratified the Arms Trade Treaty,[1] and encourages those that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty;

4. *Welcomes* the steps taken by States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to facilitate the early entry into force of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention),[8] and encourages States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and other interested States to provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Encourages* States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to implement the declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa,[2] and requests the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and the international community to support those measures;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa;

7. *Encourages* the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, in coordination with the African Union Commission, to accelerate joint efforts to adopt a comprehensive strategy to more effectively and urgently combat the threat posed by Boko Haram, and in this regard welcomes plans to convene a summit, and urges the two subregional organizations to adopt a common strategy and develop active cooperation and coordination;

8. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to carry out the programmes of activities adopted at their ministerial meetings;

[8] See A/65/517-S/2010/534, annex.

9. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

10. *Encourages* Member States to continue implementing the outcomes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, including the commencement of operations by the Interregional Coordination Centre for maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, and encourages the holding of an African Union extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government on maritime security and development for Africa;

11. *Expresses concern* over the negative impact that poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking have on the ecosystem, human development and regional security, and calls upon Member States to take immediate concerted action to counter this phenomenon, including through the implementation of the provisions of resolution 69/314;

12. *Expresses its full support* for the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and the United Nations in the Central African Republic, and calls upon the international community to support these efforts;

13. *Encourages* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to pursue their discussions on concrete conflict prevention initiatives, and requests in this regard the assistance of the Secretary-General;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, to facilitate the efforts undertaken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular for their execution of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention, as adopted on 19 November 2010 at their thirty-first ministerial meeting, held in Brazzaville from 15 to 19 November 2010;[9]

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the countries of Central Africa in tackling the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

17. *Welcomes* the contribution made by Angola to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, reminds the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the commitments they undertook on the adoption of the Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration) on 8 May 2009,[10] and invites those States members of the Committee that have not already done so to contribute to the Trust Fund;

18. *Urges* other Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee effectively through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

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[9] See A/65/717-S/2011/53, annex.

[10] See A/64/85-S/2009/288, annex.

19. *Urges* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, to strengthen the gender component of the various meetings of the Committee relating to disarmament and international security;

20. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support to the Standing Advisory Committee, welcomes the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, also welcomes the recommendations of the strategic review of the Office,[11] and strongly encourages the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office, including by supporting the recommendations of the strategic review of the Office and ensuring that it has the adequate resources to undertake its mandate;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee towards addressing cross-border security threats in Central Africa, including activities of the Lord's Resistance Army, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the fallout from the situation in the Central African Republic, and also welcomes the role of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in coordinating those efforts, working closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union and all relevant regional and international partners;

22. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for his support for the revitalization of the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, and requests him to continue to provide the assistance needed to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings;

23. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

[11] See S/2015/339.